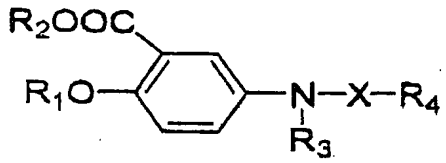
What Is Claimed Is:

1. A compound represented by the following formula (I) :



(I)

wherein,
X is CO, SO_2 or $(CH_2)_n$ (where n is an integer of 1 to 5, inclusive);
R_1 is hydrogen, alkyl or alkanoyl;
R_2 is hydrogen or alkyl;
R_3 is hydrogen or an acetoxy group; and
R_4 is phenyl group which is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more of the group consisting of nitro, halogen, haloalkyl, and C_1- C_5 alkoxy; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein X is CO, SO_2 or $(CH_2)_n$ (where n is an integer of 1 – 5, inclusive); R_1 is hydrogen, C_1- C_5 alkyl or C_2 - C_5 alkanoyl; R_2 is hydrogen or C_1- C_5 alkyl; R_3 is hydrogen or an acetoxy group; and R_4 is phenyl group which is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more selected from the group consisting of nitro, halogen, haloalkyl, and C_1- C_5 alkoxy; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

3. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein X is CO, SO_2 or $(CH_2)_n$ (where n = 1,2,3); R_1 is hydrogen, C_1- C_3 alkyl or C_2 - C_3 alkanoyl; R_2 is hydrogen or C_1- C_3 alkyl; R_3 is hydrogen or an acetoxy group; R_4 is phenyl group which is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more selected from the group consisting of nitro, halogen, halo(C_1- C_3)alkyl and C_1- C_3 alkoxy; or a pharmaceutically- acceptable salt thereof.

4. A compound according to Claim 1, which is one selected from the group consisting of
5-benzylaminosalicylic acid ,
5-(4-nitrobenzyl)aminosalicylic acid ,
(5-(4-chlorobenzyl)aminosalicylic acid ,
(5-(4-trifluoromethylbenzyl)aminosalicylic acid ,
(5-(4-fluorobenzyl)aminosalicylic acid ,
5-(4-methoxybenzyl)aminosalicylic acid,
5-(pentafluorobenzyl)aminosalicylic acid ,
5-(4-nitrobenzyl)amino-2-hydroxy ethylbenzoate,

5-(4-nitrobenzyl)-*N*-acetylamino-2-hydroxy ethylbenzoate,
5-(4-nitrobenzyl)-*N*-acetylamino-2-acetoxy ethylbenzoate,
5-(4-nitrobenzoyl)aminosalicylic acid,
5-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)aminosalicylic acid,
5-[2-(4-nitrophenyl)-ethyl]aminosalicylic acid, and
5-[3-(4-nitrophenyl)-n-propyl]aminosalicylic acid, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

5. A method for protecting central neurons from acute or chronic injuries to central nervous system(CNS), comprising administering to a patient or a mammal suffering such CNS injuries a therapeutically appropriate amount of a neuroprotective compound of Claim 1.

6. A method according to Claim 5, wherein said CNS injuries result from ischemia, hypoxia, hypoglycemia, traumatic brain injury, traumatic spinal cord injury, epilepsy, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, or Amytrophic lateral sclerosis.

7. A method according to Claim 5, wherein said CNS injuries are caused by activation of N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) glutamate receptors, entry and accumulation of Zn^{2+}, or free radicals.

8. A method according to Claim 3, wherein said compound attenuates NMDA neurotoxicity, Zn^{2+} neurotoxicity, and blocks free radical neurotoxicity as a direct antioxidant.

9. A method for treating or preventing neurological diseases linked to NMDA neurotoxicity, Zn^{2+} neurotoxicity or oxidative stress, comprising administering to a patient or a mammal suffering from such diseases a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of Claim 1.